THE EXAMINER.

Nº. 39. *SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER* 25, 1808.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few.
SWIFT.

No. 39.

MILITARY DELINQUENCY.

NECESSITY OF AN INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE COMMANDERS IN PORTUGAL; PARTICULARLY OF SIR ARTHUR WELLESLEY.—GROSS PARTIALITY OF HIS DEFENDERS.—SECRET HOPES OF HIS EMPLOYERS.—A QUESTION RESPECTING WHAT IS CALLED DISORGANIZATION.

EVERY lover of his country is still flushed with shame and indignation at our late disgrace. It seems as if some unseen hand had at one instant given a blow to every cheek in the kingdom; so instantaneous was the astonishment, so universal the sense of degradation. And shall we put up with the blow without inquiring how and whence it came? Shall we suffer the hand to play it's disgraceful tricks without dragging forth it's owner to account for them? The gamester, who in the midst of his cheating, suddenly found his hand transfixed with a fork, certainly deserved not a severer examination than the man who has staked his country's honour on his sign manual; and we ought instantly to have detained his hand with the same alacrity and the same proposition—"Sir, we must examine that trick."

Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY is most manifestly the first person that presents himself in this enquiry. He is the Officer that signed the first agreement with the French; he was the first active person both before and after the convention, and it is but just to his own *eagerness for explanation* as well as to the curiosity of his countrymen to ask him first, how he could possibly, to all appearance, so entirely alter his feelings and opinions as to give an absolute victory to those whom he had vanquished? The Editors of the daily Papers have been full of this subject, and I think this is the opinion of every one of them, who is not a mere slave of the Wellesleyans, for the Marquis it seems has not left all his slaves in India. The paragraphs that have been written in defence of Sir ARTHUR are indeed some of the most pitiable specimens of logic I ever read. They acknowledge that the convention is a very disgraceful thing and that Sir HEW DALRYMPLE was very disgraceful in *ordering* it to be signed, but they will by no means allow that Sir ARTHUR was disgraceful in signing it, because they say, he acted under the orders of his superior officer. Upon this simple reason the whole implication of WELLESLEY in the disgrace is done away, and the logic therefore stands thus:—Sir HEW ordered Sir ARTHUR to transact a very disgraceful business: it is right to obey a superior officer in every thing: therefore Sir ARTHUR was right in transacting a very disgraceful business. I suppose, it must have been just the same, if Sir HEW had ordered him to give the word of command on his head or run his friend through the body, or do any thing else, mad or vicious, and totally unconnected with the duties of a soldier.

There are two or three little circumstances which these premature defenders of Sir ARTHUR seem to have overlooked. In the first place, they ought to have examined, whether an officer, at the command of his superior, is compelled to sign any conventional writing whatever. For my own part, I cannot discover a single document or example, which has ever recognised the right of a Commander to force the *conscience* of his inferiors, and every officer of common sense must know that when he promised to obey his commander, it was in those matters only which were consistent with plain reason and the universal duty to the country. All men, to be sure, cannot judge of nice distinctions in questions of duty and it is perfectly proper, in a profession so dependent on discipline, that the submission of an inferior should be full of a liberal confidence: but duty to the commander is not to be put in competition with duty to the country, it is a mere branch of the tree, and may and ought to be sacrificed occasionally to the health of the parent stock, especially in a case, where the necessity is acknowledged by nine hundred and ninety-nine persons out of a thousand. There was one circumstance, I think, in the first agreement which might entirely have settled the matter with those gentlemen, who are so fond of calling BONAPARTE an usurper, and this was the long title of his Imperial and Royal Majesty which Sir ARTHUR WELLESLEY acknowledged when he signed the paper. The question is in fact, whether the mere order of Sir HEW DALRYMPLE could set aside all the forms, and prescriptions, and national duties of a British subject.

Granting however, in the second place, that Sir ARTHUR's obedience to Sir HEW is and ought to be of a nature perfectly conjugal, for better for worse, yet the WELLESLEYANS have not yet explained how it can be consistent with Sir ARTHUR's exquisite notions of obedience, first to obey his superior's order, and then

to publish every where, *as they say he does*, his utter contempt of it. This is distinguishing the soldier from the man with a vengeance! The design of military obedience is to produce a respect for the person obeyed, and yet here is one of Sir Hew's most obedient humble servants calling him a fool not fit to command! This is much the same sort of obedience with that of the Norman Chief, who to shew his homage for the King his master, while he was kissing the royal foot, contrived to give his liege lord a twist of the ancle and throw him over.

Thirdly, it has by no means been proved that Sir Arthur was sent to Kellerman to *sign* only, and not to *consult*. The first part of the Convention was an *agreement* between these two Generals, that is, they did not sign a paper containing the mere acknowledgment of such and such terms, but they themselves *agreed*, pronounced them good. Could Sir Arthur agree to what was disagreeable to him? Could he approve what he disapproved? Could he say, "I like it," when he had shewn his utter dislike of the whole business? To what are these men reducing Sir Arthur's character? For the sake of every thing gentlemanly, let them reflect, that they are defending the good sense of a British General at the expense of his good word, and in order to prove him a true soldier, are absolutely making him sign his name to an acknowledged falshood.

Lastly, can any one in his common faculties be convinced, that a man like Sir Arthur Wellesley, a bold and successful officer, who as they tell us, had just gained a victory and who is not at all remarkable for his deficiency in pride, should all of a sudden drop the character of his family, of himself, of a conqueror, and of a reasonable man, and submit to an acknowledged and disgusting self-degradation purely out of military obedience to a person like Sir Hew Dalrymple? Is this likely now, in any one view of the subject? Is it probable, that Sir Arthur could summon up no mode of reasoning, no little talent of expostulation, no spark of common sense to enlighten the little corner of Sir Hew's understanding? Could Sir Arthur procure no terms for himself, when the French got so many for themselves? Could he represent nothing to Sir Hew in the name of the English nation at all likely to influence his proceedings? Could he say nothing about the victory he had gained, and the consideration that might reasonably be shewn him for all his services? Was Sir Hew compliant with every body but Sir Arthur? Was he inexorable to this man of proud family and proud feeling, to the gallant, the heroic, the—what shall I say—Sir Arthur? Or were all the other officers, Sir Harry Burrard and all, determined to be so flagrantly disobedient as to have nothing to do with the signature, that at last the conqueror of Vimeira was obliged to sign a falshood in spite of himself? The Wellesleyans represent Sir Hew as an idiot, but he must be the most awful kind of fool ever heard of, to have this imposing influence on the minds and feelings of conquerors!

Sir Arthur therefore in every view of the matter is the most prominent and singular object of enquiry, and his case is the more suspicious, because his friends are so extravagantly eager to tell us there is nothing singular about him. They entreat us to shut our eyes at his approach, and fix them on nobody but Sir Hew; they forget that this very entreaty serves no other purpose but to rouze the curiosity of the multitude and to give us a monstrous idea of the spectacle. Is Sir Hew then to be instantly and severely called to account? Is Sir Harry Burrard, who stopped Sir Arthur in his victorious career without the least apparent reason, to be called to account? One would suppose that at least these favours might be granted to the nation, and that the Wellesleyans above all men would be anxious to expose the men who have *wantonly* exposed their favourite. But no: they abuse them heartily, they attribute the whole disgrace to their wretched interference, and yet they tell us at last that "only Sir Hew Dalrymple is to be recalled," and that this is all that "Ministers *can* do upon the occasion." The plain meaning of this gross libel on the Ministers is, that the Wellesleyans are afraid to have Sir Harry Burrard questioned, they are afraid to have the superiors of Sir Arthur put to the torture of enquiry, lest in their delicate agonies, I suppose, they should accuse the poor innocent wrongfully! Behold this despicable instance of party spirit! Behold the feelings of a nation sacrificed to the feelings of an individual, a Ministry reduced to nonentities for the sake of an atom, the lustre of a thousand swords tarnished for the sake of a pin's point or a pin's head.

In the mean time Sir Arthur is said to have proceeded to Spain with an army of 18,000 men. It is very proper that 18,000 men should go to the assistance of the Spaniards, and I have little doubt that the English *soldiers* will fight as well with their bayonets, and with or without officers, as they have done in Portugal. But is it proper, that a man labouring under the stigma of incapacity in military politics and stabbed in his reputation by his own hand, should have the honourable opportunity of gaining the credit of another victory? If the Ministry have given him his orders, and it is much to be suspected that they have sent out more orders lately than we imagine, it is easy to see their intention. The English *soldiers* will most probably beat the French again: Sir Arthur will send us another flaming Gazette; and then his friends will exclaim, "You surely would not call the man to account, who has gained a *second* brilliant victory." But why is not poor Sir Hew allowed the chance of seeing *his* sol-

diers beat the French and wiping off his odium? Why is not Sir HARRY BURRARD, who signed nothing, who has not been guilty of the odious crime of acknowledging the French Emperor, why is not he allowed the merit of leading a set of excellent bayonets and gaining victories without being a General? Alas, these men have no friends in the Cabinet; they have no powerful families whose friendship is of consequence to the reigning party; they are not allied to the men who have rendered the British name odious in India: what business have they to be heroes?

The truth seems to be, that the Ministry have been afraid of quarrelling with one of their body. One of their eyes has offended them, but they have not the courage to pluck it out and cast it from them. Had it been otherwise, they would have instantly superseded the whole Staff in Portugal. The WELLESLEYANS cry out, that this would *disorganize* the army, but it is not easy to discover what they mean by disorganization. If a man's head is deranged, I think he would be very lucky in being able to get a better. Sir HEW, and Sir HARRY, and Sir ARTHUR, are not the essential parts of the organ, they are neither the pipes nor the keys; they are only a bad set of bellows which have served to put the instrument out of tune, and who shall call it disorganization to supply the organ with better? The country still expect, with a natural and just impatience, that these wounds in its reputation should be probed to the bottom. Every body knows where the secret corruption lies, and who the contemptible worm is that gnaws the vitals of its military strength. What is this or that Staff to us, or any other bundle of sticks, that every one of them should not be broken if useless?

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, SEPT. 13.—There was a Grand Carousel in the Great Square, when the troops marched before his Majesty; afterwards he gave audience in the Tuilleries to the Minister of the King of NAPLES, the Duke of MONTELEONE. The same was likewise done by Baron BROCKHAUSEN, as Minister Plenipotentiary of the King of NAPLES.

BAYONNE, SEPT. 1.—The French army in Spain occupies very strong positions along the river Ebro; *tetes-du-pont* have been erected to protect all the passages of any consequence. The inhabitants of the towns in Catalonia, with the exception of those of Gerona, have not taken any the smallest share in the insurrection excited by the Monks. The English have conveyed an incredible quantity of their merchandize to Gibraltar, whence it is destributed among the towns in the South of Spain. They have even asked permission of the insurgents to open warehouses in the ports of Spain. All these are a sure booty for the French army.

SPAIN.

[*FROM THE PATRIOTIC PAPERS.*]

MADRID, SEPT. 7.—Joseph Napoleon and the French head-quarters are in the city of Logrono. The French marched by the way of Tudela to Arragon; but after having advanced a few leagues, they, on a sudden, made a retrograde movement, which is generally attributed to intelligence they received of the movements of our armies. The army of Arragon, which marched from Saragossa in pursuit of the French, and pushed on as far as Tudela, has been obliged to make a retrograde movement to Borga, because the army which marched from Burgos to attack the above corps on the right bank of the Ebro, amounted to 18,000 men.

GIJON, SEPT. 13.—Yesterday arrived here his Majesty's ships Cossack and Comet, the former from Santander, the latter from Plymouth, with near a million of dollars on board; part of which are for the service of Spain, and with the remainder she will sail in a day or two for Oporto. In the afternoon arrived the Swallow, convoying eight sail of transports, sent here to receive 2000 Merino sheep, presented by the Junta of this principality to his Majesty. Soon after the Swallow came to an anchor, a boat put off from her with the Captain, the Hon. Capt. Herbert, a Mr. Creed, the agent for transports, and seven seamen: just as they were upon the bar, a sea broke over them, filled the boat, and plunged the whole into the sea; the greater part were saved by the boats from the shore: unfortunately, however, they were unable to save Capt. Herbert and Mr. Creed, who sunk before they arrived. The former was son to the Earl of Carnarvon, and the latter to Mr. Creed, the Navy Agent.

SEPT. 15.—Letters from Oviedo state, that the French, after collecting the chief part of their force from Navarre and Biscay, to the amount of nearly 30,000 men, had suddenly made an irruption into Arragon, with the view of getting possession of Saragossa.—When they were within seven leagues of the city, they received such intelligence as induced them to retreat; and their head-quarters are now at Miranda en Ebro, in Navarre. General Palafox had fallen back to Borga, learning that the enemy had advanced with a force greatly superior. A letter from Madrid states, that 70,000 Spaniards were on their march to Saragossa. It was probably on the receipt of this intelligence that the French were ordered to fall back. Blake is supposed by this time to be at Burgos: the last account left him at Reynosa.

CARTHAGENA, AUG. 20.—Yesterday a merchant vessel arrived here in eight days from Palermo, the Captain of which asserts, that the French are precipitately evacuating Naples, the whole kingdom being in a state of insurrection against the French, in consequence of having learned with certainty the occurrences in Spain, and the victories gained by the Spaniards.—He adds, that when he came away the English were embarking in all the vessels in that port troops, arms, ammunition, and provisions for Naples.—(*Oviedo Gazette, Sept.* 10.)

TARRAGONA, AUG. 22.—From the dispatches transmitted to his Excellency the Captain-General of this principality, by Count de Caldagues, Commander of

the Army of Gerona, dated the 18th inst. we collect the following narrative of the details of the glorious victory acquired by the troops composing that army:—

"The Count, having received orders to compel the French to raise the siege of Gerona, instantly began his march from Martorell; and being informed that the enemy's force was not less than from 7 to 8000 infantry, and from 8 to 900 cavalry, with a complete train of artillery, he proceeded to form a junction between such troops as he could collect. On his arrival at Castella, he found that he could muster about 6000 men in arms; and though there were among them only about 300 veterans, he did not hesitate a moment to attack the enemy. On the 15th, he reconnoitred the camp and positions of Duhesme. The fortress of Monjui, reduced to the utmost extremity, could scarcely hold out 12 hours, in which case the loss of Gerona would be inevitable. He therefore immediately issued orders for an attack the next morning, according to the following plan:—Don Juan Claros, who was posted at Los Angeles with 2500 miquelets and peasants, was to attack the Hermitage of St. Miguel, which was occupied by the French; then forming his force into two or three columns, he was to proceed to attack the remaining positions of the enemy, until he dislodged them from the town of Camdura, and the adjoining encampment. Here he was to maintain himself, in order to prevent the junction of any succours which the enemy might bring from Sarria and Pont Major, to draw off the attention of the troops occupied in the siege of Monjui, and thus to facilitate a sally from the fortress, whilst Caldagues should support these operations, by attacking the batteries which played upon Monjui.

"This meritorious Commander arranged his march in four divisions, and arriving within a suitable distance of the enemy, who were besieging Monjui, he ordered the division of Milans to ascend the mountain to the right and left; and that, at the same time, the 2d and 3d columns should rapidly advance both to favour the sally from the fortress, and to pursue the enemy posted at St. Miguel, their advanced parties, and those who occupied the pass and the encampment of Camdura, who were then retreating before the troops of Claros; and afterwards to proceed against those who were posted at Sarria and Pont Major.

"If the plan was concerted with judgment and foresight, the result most completely corresponded with it. All who had any share in executing it gave the most brilliant proofs of their skill and valour. The regiment of Ultonia, and the 2d of Barcelona, those irresistible warriors, under the command of their worthy officers and gallant Chiefs, D. Narcisso de la Valeta and D. Henrique O'Donnell, attacked the enemy's batteries with the bayonet, with such ardour and celerity, that they scarcely gave the enemy time to think of resistance. Defeated and thrown into confusion in their positions, they perished or fled under the impulse of the terror with which they were struck by the valour of the abovementioned troops. A moment of repose induced them to return, in order to reconquer what they had just so ignominously lost; but in this they were disappointed by the opportune arrival of the second division; and on the advance of a small party of the grenadiers of Soria, under the command of their brave Lieutenant D. Tadeo Aldea, who received a glorious wound, the enemy retreated. Beaten at all points, they precipitately sought for safety in the centre of the plain of Sarria, on the other side of the river, and under the protection of the whole of their cavalry. In this description of force we were unfortunately deficient, owing to the Governor of Majorca having refused to assist us with the regiment of Spanish Hussars.

"The engagement commenced in the morning and lasted until the evening, when there being no longer any enemy to fight, the Commander gave orders for permitting the troops to repose themselves. At day-break advice was received, that the enemy were retreating towards Barcelona and Figueras, leaving behind them considerable quantities of military stores. Milans and Claros are pursuing them in their retreat.

"Such is the result of this memorable day, in which the troops, miquelets, and peasants have covered themselves with glory. Gerona is delivered—Duhesme humbled—the garrison of Barcelona extremely weakened—our troops flushed with an ardour suited to the advantages they have obtained, and the eagles of the Great Napoleon laid prostrate in the dust, and besmeared with the blood of his legions. Though we have not yet received a detailed statement of their killed and wounded, we can positively assert, that in all directions are to be seen the dead bodies of Frenchmen; and they carried with them 30 waggons filled with wounded."

Since the arrival of the above dispatches, his Excellency has received others, detailing various encounters with the fugitives on the road to Barcelona, and at every step of their progress many of them paid the forfeit of their lives; so that their dead, almost touching each other as they fell, clearly mark out their track until their arrival at Barcelona, where their remains, being about 800, formed a junction with a corps which advanced from Barcelona to protect them. Their passage through the country cost them 1200 men. From the returns annexed to these dispatches, it appears that our loss on the 16th was, of the regulars seven killed and 38 wounded, and of the miquelets 15 killed, 70 wounded, and 13 missing.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Saturday se'nnight, about half past eight o'clock in the evening, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt at Cumnock, near Ayr, and the neighbouring places. At Leadhills it was so distinct and violent, that the inhabitants were very much alarmed. A loud rumbling noise was heard resembling thunder, and the shock appeared to strike upwards from a great depth in the earth: several persons were nearly thrown down, and great numbers of people left their houses in the utmost consternation. In the course of about fifty minutes after the first shock, no less than thirty different lesser noises were heard: the progress of the first seemed to be towards the North-west, but afterwards more to the Eastward, during which no damage whatsoever was done.

Mr. Adam French, Wine Merchant, Leith, being shooting upon the lands of Colonel Colbrooke, in the parish of Crawfordjohn, and county of Lanark, his pointer dog having stopped short, and making a remarkable noise, attracted his attention, and going up to the spot, was astonished to see a large adder in the act of swallowing a lark; being half erected in the air he fired at it, and after blowing its head entirely off, it measured no less than 35 inches in length.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 20.

Copy of a Letter from Vice-Admiral Sir J. Saumarez, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Baltic, to the Hon. W. W. Pole.

SIR, *Victory, off Rogerswick, Aug. 30.*

You will please to inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, of my arriving off Oro yesterday evening, pursuant to my intentions to effect a junction with the Swedish fleet, which I had received an account from Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff was blockaded by the Russian fleet, consisting of 13 sail of line-of-battle ships, besides frigates. It was not before this morning that I was informed by the Commander of the Swedish frigate Chapman, that the Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, after being joined by Sir S.

Hood, in the Centaur, and Implacable, had sailed from Oro Road on the 25th, in pursuit of the Russian fleet; and on the day following had succeeded in capturing and destroying the Russian line-of-battle ship Sewolod, off Rogerswick, and in which port the remainder of the enemy's ships had been compelled to shelter themselves. I immediately made sail for Rogerswick, where I arrived this afternoon, and had the satisfaction to find the Swedish fleet, with the Centaur and Implacable, at anchor, watching the Russian force in the harbour.

I inclose to you, for their Lordships' information, the duplicate of a letter which I have had the pleasure to receive from Rear-Admiral Sir S. Hood, detailing the account of his proceedings with his Majesty's ships under his orders, and the squadron of his Swedish Majesty, under Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, and of the meritorious conduct of Capt. Martin, of the Implacable, in bringing the enemy's sternmost ship to action, and which struck her colours to the Implacable, but was afterwards rescued by the approach of the enemy's whole force, which had obliged Sir S. Hood to recal her. I also inclose the copy of a letter from Capt. Martin to the Rear Admiral, in which he gives due credit. Baldwin, and Mr. Moore, the Master, and the other Officers and men of the Implacable.

The Russian Admiral having sent a frigate to take the disabled ship in tow, she was again attacked by the Implacable, and the Centaur laying her on board in the most gallant manner; and by the exertions of Capt. Webley and Lieut. Lawless, and Mr. Strode, Master of the Centaur, her bowsprit was lashed to that ship, and there was every prospect of her being got off; but she having unfortunately grounded, rendered it impossible, and she was set on fire, after the prisoners and wounded men were taken from her.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Rear-Admiral Sir S. Hood, for the gallantry he displayed with the two ships under his orders in his pursuit of the enemy's fleet when the bad sailing of the squadron of his Majesty's ally prevented their coming up with them, and bringing on a general action. The brave and highly meritorious exertions of Capt. Martin and Capt. Webley, with the Officers and men under their orders, entitle them to the highest commendation in my power to bestow, and excited the amazement and admiration of the gallant Swedes who witnessed their heroic bravery and perseverance.

The present position of the Russian fleet within the batteries at the entrance of the harbour, leave but slender hopes of their being attacked with any probability of success. Admiral Nauckhoff has requested a body of land forces to be sent from Finland, with a view of taking possession of the Island of East Raga, which would effectually command the harbour; but as the enemy has been occupied in placing it in the best state of defence, it is very doubtful if a descent upon the Island could be affected. I beg to assure their Lordships, that every endeavour will be practised with the force under my orders, jointly with the Swedish squadron, that can tend to the further defeat of the enemy.

I purpose to detach a small squadron, under the orders of Capt. Martin, towards Cronstadt; and I shall order the Africa to repair to her station off the Malmo Channel, calling off Carlscrona for the convoy appointed to sail from that port for England. I am, Sir, &c.

JAS. SAUMAREZ.

SIR, *Centaur, off Rogerswick, Aug. 27.*

It is with pleasure I acquaint you the Russian squadron, under the command of Vice-Admiral Hanickhoff, after being chased 34 hours by his Swedish Majesty's squadron, under Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, accompanied by this ship and the Implacable, under my orders, have been forced to take shelter in the port of Rogerswick, with the loss of one ship of 74 guns. I shall have great satisfaction in detailing to you the services of the Captains, Officers, Seamen, and Marines, under my command; and have also to state, that in no instance have I seen more energy displayed than that by his Swedish Majesty's squadron, which, although from the inferiority of their sailing they were prevented from getting into action, Rear Admiral Nauckhoff and the Captains under his command, from their perseverance and judicious conduct, were enabled to give confidence to his Majesty's ships; and could we have forced the enemy to a general action, the whole of their squadron must have fallen to the superior bravery of the united force of our respective Sovereigns, in so just and honourable a cause.

My letter of the 25th will have acquainted you of the Russian squadron having appeared off Oro Road on the 23d. The arrangements for quitting that anchorage, after his Swedish Majesty's ships from Jungfar Sound had joined Rear-Admiral Nauckhoff, were completed on the evening of the 24th. Early the next morning the whole force put to sea; soon after the Russian fleet was discovered off Hango Udd, the wind at N. E. Not a moment was lost in giving pursuit, and every sail pressed by his Swedish Majesty's squadron. From the superior sailing of the Centaur and Implacable, they were soon in advance: at the close of the evening the enemy were not far off, and noticed in the greatest disorder, apparently to avoid a general battle. In the morning of the 26th, about five o'clock, the Implacable was enabled to bring the leewardmost of the enemy's line-of-battle ships to close action, in a most brave and gallant manner; and so decided and judicious was this manœuvre executed, that the Russian Admiral, who bore up with the whole of his force, could not prevent that marked superiority of discipline and seamanship being eminently distinguished. Although the enemy's ship fought with the greatest bravery, she was silenced in about 20 minutes; and only the near approach of the enemy's whole fleet could have prevented her then falling, her colours and pendant being both down; but I was obliged to make the signal for the Implacable to close me. Capt. Martin's letter, stating the brave and gallant conduct of Lieut. Baldwin, his other officers and men, I send herewith; and it would be needless for me to add more to you on their meritorious conduct. If words of mine could enhance the merit of this brave, worthy, and excellent officer, Capt. Martin, I could do it with the most heartfelt gratification; and the high esteem I have for him as an officer and a friend, no language can sufficiently express.

The Russian Admiral having sent a frigate to tow the disabled ship, again hauled his wind, and the Implacable being ready to make sail, I immediately gave chace, and soon obliged her to throw the frigate to cast off her tow, when the Russian Admiral was again under the necessity to support her by several line-of-battle ships bearing down; and I had every prospect of this bringing on a general action, to avoid which he availed himself of a favourable slant of wind, and entered the port of Rogerswick.

The line-of-battle ship engaged by the Implacable having fallen to leeward, grounded on a shoal just at the entrance of the port: there being then some swell, I had a hope she must have been destroyed; but the wind moderating towards the evening, she appeared to ride at her anchor, and exertions made to repair her damage. At sunset, finding the swell abated, and boats sent from the Russian fleet to tow her into port, I directed Capt. Webley to stand in and endeavour to cut her off: this was executed in a manner that must ever reflect the highest honour on Capt. Webley, the Officers, and ship's company of the Centaur, for their valour and perseverance in the support of my orders. The boats had made a considerable progress, and the enemy's ship was just entering the port when we had the good fortune to lay her on board; her bowsprit taking the Centaur's fore-rigging, she swept along with her bow grazing the muzzles of our guns, which was the only signal for their discharge, and

the enemy's bows were drove in by this raking fire; when the bowsprit came to the mizen-rigging, I ordered it to be lashed; this was performed in the most steady manner by the exertions of Capt. Webley, Lieut. Lawless, Mr. Strode, and other brave men, under a heavy fire from the enemy's musketry, by which, I am sorry to add, Lieut. Lawless is severely wounded. The ship being in six fathoms water, I had a hope I should have been able to have towed her out in that position, but an anchor had been let go from her unknown to us, which made it impossible to effect it. At this period much valour was displayed on both sides, and several attempts made to board by her bowsprit; but nothing could withstand the cool and determined fire of the marines under Capt. Bayley and the other Officers, as well as the fire from our stern-chase guns, and in less than half an hour she was obliged to surrender. On this occasion, I again received the greatest aid from Capt. Martin, who anchored his ship in a position to heave the Centaur off, after she and the prize had grounded, which was fortunately effected at the moment two of the enemy's ships were seen under sail standing towards us, but retreated as they saw the ships extricated from this difficulty.

The prize proved to be the Sewolod, of 74 guns, Capt. Roodneff; she had also so much water in her, and being fast on shore, after taking out the prisoners and wounded men, I was obliged to give orders for her being burnt; which service was completely effected under the direction of Lieut. Biddulph, of this ship, by seven o'clock in the morning.

I cannot speak too highly of the brave and gallant conduct of Capt. Webley, and every Officer and man under his command; and I beg leave to recommend to you, for the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Lieut. Lawless, for his exertions and gallant conduct, and who has severely suffered on this occasion; and I also must beg leave to recommend Lieut. W. Case, the senior officer of this ship,

Herewith you will receive a list of the killed and wounded on board this ship and the Implacable, and from every information that it was possible to collect, that of the enemy's ship captured. I have the honour to be, &c.

Sir J. Saumarez, Bt. and K.B. SAM. HOOD.

P. S. I send herewith a list of the Swedish and Russian squadrons.

His Majesty's Ship Implacable, off Packerot Light-house, Aug. 26.

SIR,

The action this morning between the Implacable and the rear ship of the Russian line, was so immediately under your own observation, that it would be superfluous to trouble you with any statement upon that point; but in transmitting a list of killed and wounded, I trust I may be allowed the opportunity to express my thankfulness to the officers and ship's company of the Implacable, for their eager and active exertions to close with the enemy, and the truly noble and splendid conduct which they displayed during the engagement; but it is my duty to acknowledge, in a more particular manner, the great assistance I derived from Mr. Baldwin, the first lieutenant, and Mr. Moore, the master; and if the fact of our opponent being completely silenced, and his colours (both ensign and pendant) down, when the approach of the whole Russian fleet occasioned your recalling me, can tend to make the affair worthy of being distinguished by any mark of approval from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, it is impossible their patronage can be bestowed upon a more thoroughly deserving Officer than Mr. Baldwin. I have the honour, &c. T. B. MARTIN,

To Sir S. Hood, K. B.

A Return of the Men Killed and Wounded.

Centaur.—Killed—P. Jackson, landman; H. Brass, private of marines, J. Hawksford, ditto.

Wounded—Officers: Mr. P. Lawless, First Lieutenant, severely; Mr. Morton, boatswain, badly.—*Petty Officers:* J. Robinson (1) yeoman of the sheets, slightly.—*Seamen:* T. Moxey, quarter-gunner; J. Bowden, captain of the forecastle; R. Strangram, J. Kenny, T. M'Donald, A. Bossey, J. Conway, J. Jefferies, T. O'Brien, T. Burk, J. Hudson, M. Canary, R. Williams, E. Fletcher, J. Smith.—*Marines:* J. Shores, W. M'Kendrick, J. Gumbleton, S. Leach, B. Gilbert, D. M'Donald, J. Gaynor.—Total, 3 killed, and 27 wounded.

Implacable.—Killed—D. Coming, ordinary; R. Miller, W. Chugg, and L. Grouville, quarter gunners; G. Quinton, boy; T. Netherwood, marine.

Wounded—Mr. C. Eastmure, severely, thigh since amputated; W. Harris, quarter-gunner, arm since amputated; D. Morrison, M. Johnson, J. Dunleary, J. Beck, J. Armstrong, R. Qunyle, C. Shaw, C. Banks, J. Pinchett, W. Everson, Mr. T. Pickerwell, Master's Mate, slightly; J. Webster, R. Hodges, V. Sutherland, quarter-gunner, W. Allcock, J. Edgcombe, J. Barbell, Mr. N. Drew, Captain's Clerk, slightly; T. Quarm, P. King, J. Williams, W. Randle, P. Brugile.—Total, 6 killed and 26 wounded.

A List of Killed and Wounded on board the Sewolod.

Forty-three killed and 80 wounded in the action with the Implacable; 180 killed and missing in the action with the Centaur.—Total, 303 killed, wounded, and missing.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 20.

Copy of a letter transmitted by Vice-Admiral Wells.

SIR, *Christiansand, June 20.*

I beg leave to acquaint you, that in his Majesty's sloop Seagull, under my command, yesterday at two P. M. the Nase of Norway bearing W. N. W. seven or eight leagues, I discovered a brig in-shore running to the eastward, and immediately made all sail in chace of her; at half past four came within gun-shot and hoisted our colours, which she answered by hoisting Danish colours, and opening her fire on the starboard side. At this time it became nearly a calm from a fresh breeze we had at W. S. W. and obliged us to get our sweeps out, in order to get between her and the shore. At five, got within musket-shot of the enemy, and commenced action; having now most of our sweeps shot away and great part of the rigging. Twenty-five minutes past five, we discovered several gun-boats coming towards us, which had been concealed behind the rocks; and it being a perfect calm, they had every advantage they could wish in placing them. They took their position on each quarter, raking us every shot, whilst the brig had the same advantage on the larboard bow. At half-past six, five of our carronades were dismounted on the larboard-side (the only side we could bring to bear on the enemy), and several of the officers and crew killed and wounded. Every method was used to get the Seagull round, so as to bring the starboard guns to bear, but without effect; our sweeps being all shot away, the gun-boats hulling us every shot they fired, five feet water in the hold, and all our sails and rigging cut to pieces. At half-past seven, from the sinking state of the ship, also the great slaughter made by the gun-boats, I considered it an indispensible duty, for the preservation of the surviving officers and crew, to order the colours to be hauled down. I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, there was sufficient time to remove the wounded out of the Seagull before she sunk. The force opposed to her was the Danish brig of war Lougen, mounting 20 guns, 18 long 18-pounders, and two long 6-pounders; six gun-boats, most of them carrying two 24-pounders, and from 50 to 80 men each. The action was fought close to the mouth of the harbour of Christiansand.

I cannot speak in terms adequate to the deserts of every officer and man under my command on this trying occasion. I received that support from Mr. Hatton, the First Lieutenant, I had every reason to expect from his general good conduct; and the officers and crew have my warmest thanks for their cool and steady behaviour; and I consider it a duty I owe them, to add, that never was more British

valour displayed than on this occasion, although opposed to so very superior a force.

The enemy must have suffered very considerably, but I have not been able to ascertain to what extent. Several of the Danes perished on board the Seagull, so precipitately did she go down. I herewith send you a list of the killed and wounded on board the said sloop. I have the honour to be, &c. R. B. CATHCART, Commander.

Killed.—Mr. A. S. White, Second Lieutenant; Mr. A. Martin, Master; E. Knox, boatswain's mate; T. Nichols, carpenter's crew; W. Crisp, able; W. Champion, serjeant of marines; T. Ashley, private of marines; D. Ellis, ditto.

Severely wounded.—Capt. Cathcart.

Dangerously wounded.—Mr. Hatton, First Lieutenant; J. Young, able; J. Chitty, landman; G. Chambers, able; J. Champion, ditto; W. Lewis, private of marines.

Badly wounded.—J. Boyd, landman; W. Lonie, able; T. Wilson, boatswain.

Slightly wounded.—Wm. Calway, private of marines; J. Brown, ditto; W. Murphy, ditto; J. M'Donald, ditto; J. Williams, ordinary; J. B. Paul, Captain of the forecastle; J. Wood, cook; R. Steel, able; J. Milne, ditto; J. Norben, ditto.

BANKRUPTS.

R. Allinson and J. Whitaker, Lancaster, leather-dressers, to surrender Oct. 19, 20, Nov. 1, at the King's Arms, Lancaster. Attornies, Messrs. Blakelock and Makinson, Elm-court, Temple, London.

G. Testolini, Cornhill, print-seller, Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Nov. 1, at Guildhall. Attornies, Messrs. Evitt and Rixon, Haydon-square, Minories.

J. Peat, Great Portland-street, wine-merchant, Oct. 4, 8, Nov. 1, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Smith, Dorset-street, Fleet-street.

DIVIDENDS.

Oct. 22. T. Chippendal, St. Martin's-lane, upholsterer.—J. Harris, Bear-lane, cooper.—Oct. 11. D. Aichison, Weden Beck, Northamptonshire, draper.—Oct. 11. T. Tite, Daventry, auctioneer.—Oct. 15. J. Simkiss, Tipton, Staffordshire, chain-maker.—Oct. 11. J. Carter, West Lyne, Norfolk, vintner.—Oct. 11. J. Carter, Grimstone, Norfolk, grocer.—Oct. 29. John Williams, Bristol, broker.—Nov. 9. T. Waghorn, Romford, Essex, draper.—Nov. 8. J. Champman, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, drysalter.—Oct. 29. W. Ploxam, New-road, St. George's in the East, cooper.—Nov. 15. G. Stevens, jun. Bedford, grocer.—Nov. 1. J. Burdett, Newgate-street, warehouseman.—Dec. 3. J. Wilkins and T. Lacey, Basinghall-street, factors. Oct. 31. J. Aston, Manchester, liquor-merchant.—Oct. 14. R. Derbishire, Liverpool, grocer.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 21st of September, 1808, present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas his Majesty was pleased by his Orders in Council, of the 6th of January and 4th of May last, to direct certain measures to be taken for the care and custody of Portuguese property belonging to persons residing in Portugal or elsewhere, under the controul of France, which had been detained by British Cruizers, and to subject such property to the future disposition of the Prince Regent of Portugal, in consideration of the owners not being entitled to the possession of it while they remained under the controul of the enemy.

And whereas the deliverance of Portugal from such controul has since been effected, and the inhabitants of that country are again become duly qualified to receive the restitution of their property.

His Majesty is therefore pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Counsel, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that all Portuguese property shall be forthwith restored to the respective owners thereof, or their lawful agents; and the persons appointed by virtue of the Order in Council of the 6th of January last, for the care and management of the Portuguese property, are hereby ordered to restore the same accordingly; such property nevertheless being subject to the payment of the legal charges thereon, and of the expences justly incurred in respect thereto; and all questions regarding the ownership of such property, where any doubt shall be entertained by the persons aforesaid, with respect to the same, and the charges and expenses thereon, shall be decided upon summarily by the High Court of Admiralty, or the Court of Vice-Admiralty, in which such property may have been brought to adjudication.—And the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and the Judges of the High Courts of Vice Admiralty, are to take the necessary measures herein as to them shall respectively appertain.

W. FAWKENER.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. B. Lay, Manchester, cotton manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Williamson, Gringley on the Hill, Nottinghamshire, cornfactor, to surrender Oct. 18, 19, Nov. 5, at eleven, at the Red Lion Inn, Worksop. Attornies, Messrs. Mason and Wakefield, East Retford.

J. Hague, New Mills, Derbyshire, cotton-spinner, Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, at two, at the Dog Tavern, Manchester. Attorney, Mr. Higson, Manchester.

W. Hobson, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, maltster, Oct. 10, 12, Nov. 5, at two, at the Bull Inn, Horncastle. Attornies, Messrs. Clithero and Co. Horncastle.

J. Keartland, Birmingham, wood screw-maker, Oct. 10, 11, Nov. 5, at eleven, at the Stork Tavern, Birmingham. Attorney, Mr. Palmer, Barnard's Inn, London.

B. Batterbee, King's Lynn, Norfolk, haberdasher, Oct. 7, at five, 8, at ten, Nov. 5, at twelve, at Guildhall, London. Attorney, Mr. Goodwin, Lynn.

W. Fincham, Covent-Garden, earthenwareman, Oct. 14, at nine, 15, Nov. 5, at ten, at Guildhall. Attorney, Mr. Kirkman, Cloak-lane, Cheapside.

DIVIDENDS.

Nov. 12. J. Evatt, Rood-lane, glassman.—Nov. 12. D. De Beaune, Great Winchester-street, insurance-broker.—Oct. 29. R. Barber, Oxford-street, jeweller.—Nov. 26. J. M'Dermott, Red Lion-street, Southwark, hop and seed factor.—Nov. 8. Wm. Tucker, jun. Exeter, banker.—Oct. 24. T. Pearson, Pennybridge, Lancaster, flax-spinner.—Oct. 21. J. Wheeler, Abingdon, Berks, grocer.—Oct 19. J. Turner, Manchester, dealer and chapman.—Oct. 11. P. Fitzherbert, Bath, merchant.—Dec. 6. A. Arbuthnott and R. Bracken, Philpot-lane, merchants.—Oct. 17. J. Battershell, Portsmouth, ship-chandler.—Oct. 26. I. R. Furtado, South-street, Finsbury-square, merchant.—Oct. 19. R. Robinson, Salford, Lancaster, rope-manufacturer.—Oct. 19. G. Rayson, Leeds, druggist.—Oct. 20. J. Peers, Liverpool, sadler.

A private letter from Gottenburgh states, that our Admirals obtained some fire-ships from the Swede, and sent them into the port where the Russian ships were lying, which set fire to some magazines; the Russian Admiral offered to dismantle his ships until a peace, which our Admiral refused.

The last return of the Patriot force in Spain, it is said, amounted to 300,000 men.

PRICE OF STOCKS YESTERDAY.

Consols.....65⅞ | Omnium.....2¼ dis.

THE EXAMINER.

London, September 25.

Two Messengers from Oporto arrived on Friday with Dispatches for the Portuguese Minister after a passage of 11 days. Their message has not transpired, but it is rumoured that the Portuguese General had protested against the Convention, and that the first division of the French had not left Portugal when the Messengers came away. It is to be heartily wished that these rumours may be true. The refusal of the Portuguese to let the French go is the only just method of destroying the Convention, and though it could not recal the word we have given and save the honour we have lost, yet it would save us from breaking our word and incurring fresh dishonour. The Portuguese have so manifest a right to act thus, and the act is in itself so highly probable, that one would sometimes really be apt to suppose, that those who signed the Convention foresaw the blow that would prevent it, and merely gave terms to Junot to entice him into an unwary confidence incapable of resisting. This would have been, however, quite as disgraceful though not as impolitic as the actual state of the case. One circumstance indeed tends not a little to damp the ardour excited by the present rumour, and that is the silence of the Ministers respecting the Portuguese dispatches. Every body longs to hear the Ministers say something or other about the late business. It appears by the new expedition of Sir A. Wellesley to Spain, that they are not very anxious to enquire into his proceedings; and the Wellesleyans may hope perhaps, that when the novelty of the disgrace is worn off, the papers will gradually become silent, and some new chance of arms afford new matter of conversation. They shall not affect however to forget it, as long as this Paper can remind my countrymen of the justice due to the national feeling. The reader will find some remarks on the subject at the head of this day's Examiner, and if the Ministers and the Ministerial Papers are silent, I trust there are other papers, which without opposing them for opposition's sake, will oppose them for honour's and for truth's sake, and lift up their voices amidst the silence of corruption. There is one daily paper, the *Times*, which has for some time past appeared anxious to do away it's former character and has particularly distinguished itself on the present question. The Editor not only throws light on every view of [illegible] but he throws lightning: his pen [illegible] and wherever it strikes we [illegible] some new appearance of [illegible] warns us how we trust the darkness that is purposely thrown over enquiry. I have the utmost satisfaction in recommending to my readers the excellent articles of this Gentleman, of whom I know nothing but that he writes with an honesty that few other Editors would practice if they could, and with a classical vigour that hardly one of them could practice if he would.

The French army, supposed to consist of 40,000 men have fallen back from Burgos to a very advantageous position at Logrono, a fortified town of Old Castille, situate in a large plain on the right bank of the Ebro. It is a fine field of action for cavalry, and in case of defeat, the French can easily retreat to the strong holds of Navarre. It must be confessed that this is an excellent situation for an invading army, and if the Spaniards should once be defeated in a pitched battle, which it is said they mean to hazard with Bessieres, the French will instantly follow up the victory with their usual pointed decision, and it would require great strength and great time to recover from such a conquest. Enthusiasm may certainly do as much for the Spaniards as it has done for their present invaders, but at all events a pitched battle has a very imprudent aspect, and is directly contrary to the advice of the celebrated Precautions.

A Mail from Gottenburgh arrived yesterday morning. The Russians it seems have so fortified the harbour of Port Baltic, that it was impossible to attack them there; but they appeared in great alarm, and had moored so close to the shore, that a strong north west wind would most likely drive them on it. It was reported in the city, that Sir Samuel Hood had blown up the magazine at Rogerswick, and that the Russian Admiral had in consequence sent a flag of truce to Sir J. Saumarez with an offer of surrender. The Government have heard nothing of this. Our naval officers however are acting very differently in the North from their brethren at Lisbon. They have no military officers, thank heaven, to turn their swords into pens.

☞

Gottenburgh, Sept. 6.

It is reported from Stockholm, that negociations are begun about delivering up the Russian fleet. The following are extracts from letters from an officer on board the *Victory*:—

Victory, off Rogerswick, Sept. 6.

The Russian fleet is dismantling in Rogerswick: they have made their position very strong, by erecting batteries at Baltic Port and East Roye, but they are warped so close to the shores that I think a gale of wind will go near to destroy them. We annoy and harass the enemy on all opportunities, and yesterday, on throwing shells, blew up a powder magazine with a very great explosion; they are, I believe, very much alarmed and panic-struck, and I hope we shall be able to compel them to good terms.

Victory, off Rogerswick, Sept. 10.

Things remain nearly in the same state as when I last wrote: the Russians are moored as close as possible to the shore. I think the first N. W. gale must completely do them up. They have their yards and top-masts struck, and have amazingly fortified the entrance of the harbour.

The Judge of the Admiralty Court, Sir WILLIAM SCOTT, has taken his departure for Lisbon. It is naturally supposed that he goes on public business.

Captain DALRYMPLE arrived at Plymouth on Tuesday, to take his passage in the Pallas for Lisbon; but she was ordered away, and he detained by telegraph.

It was not until the 15th instant that the Expedition under the command of Sir DAVID BAIRD sailed from Cork. It consists of 7000 men, and is said to be destined for Italy.

A gentleman is arrived from Paris, which he left a few days ago. It was generally believed that MASSENA would have the chief command of the army in Spain, if his health would permit him. BONAPARTE and he were shooting the other day near St. Cloud, when BONAPARTE fired his gun so close to MASSENA as to do considerable injury to his eye. It is apprehended that he will lose the sight of it. In the mean time Marshal NEY has been dispatched to Spain. Within the last month between 30 and 40,000 cavalry have passed through Paris.

The report of an attempt having lately been made upon the life of BERNADOTTE seems confirmed. He was at Flinsburgh at the time. His Aid-du-Camp was standing close to him, and seeing the dagger raised, threw himself forward to save the General, and received the weapon in his body—he died instantly. A second blow was aimed at BERNADOTTE—he parried it with his hand, and the dagger went through his hand and entered his breast, but not deeply. He is now recovered.

Among the most curious articles in the Paris Papers are the deeds of conveyance, executed by the King of SPAIN and the Prince of ASTURIAS, transferring the kingdom of Spain and the Indies to BONAPARTE in fee for ever. These curious articles, extorted from those unhappy Princes at Bayonne, when in the fangs of the tyrant, are given in the *Moniteur*. Their publication cannot possibly do BONAPARTE any good. The most favourable construction that can be put upon them, even in France, is, that the Spanish King and Prince were fools, and sold their great inheritance for a mess of pottage. The king of SPAIN, we find, is to have for his share the Palace of Compeigne, with the appurtenances, and an annuity, with the reversion of a moiety to the QUEEN. The Prince of ASTURIAS is to have the Palace of Navarre, and its appendages and appurtenances, with an annuity also; and the junior branches are to be put upon the pension list.—In all transfers of property, adequacy of value is a principal ingredient to constitute validity; and yet, such are the paltry, contemptible considerations for which the reigning family are made to renounce their right and inheritance of the kingdom of Spain and the Indies.

Private letters report that BONAPARTE has left Paris for the purpose of proceeding to Strasburgh.

NAPOLEON is said to have offered a considerable part of Turkey to the Emperor FRANCIS.

The divisions of Marshals DAVOUST, SOULT, NEY and VICTOR, are now all on their march through France to Spain.

PATRIOTIC DEPUTIES.—The following is a list of the Deputies appointed for the Supreme Government of Spain:—

For Old Castile, Don Francisco Xavier Cano, Don Lorenzo Bonifaz.—Leon, his Excellency Senor B. Valdes, Viscount Quintanilla.—Arragon, his Excellency Count Sastago, Brig. Don Francisco Palafox y Melzi, El Int, Don Lorenzo Calvo.—Andalusia, Count De Tilly, Asst, Don Vincent Ore.—Gallicia, Count De Ximarde, Don Manuel M. Atalle.—Asturias, His Excellency Don Gaspar de Jovallanos, Marquis of Campo Sagrado.—Valencia, His Excellency Prince Pio, his Excellency Count of Contamina.—Murcia, his Excellency Count of Florida Blanca, the Marquis of Villar.—Estremadura, Senor Don —— Otalle, name unknown.—Grenada, Don Luis Gines de Funes, Regent of the Audience, Riquelme.—Catalonia, Marquis De Villei, Baron De Sabasona.

The Gazette of Tuesday contains details of naval operations in the Baltic. Sir J. SAUMAREZ praises the judicious conduct and persevering gallantry of Sir S. HOOD, who, with a force comparatively trifling, pursued the Russian fleet, consisting of 13 sail of the line, and succeeded in capturing the line-of-battle ship named the Sewolod, off Rogerswick. Capt. MARTIN, of the Implacable, also compelled the sternmost ship of the enemy to strike her colours, but was prevented from reaping the just reward of his valour by the approach of the enemy's whole force.

Mr. WAITHMAN gave notice of the following motion in the Common Council on Thursday last, which he intended to move at the next Court:—

"That an humble and dutiful Address and Petition be presented to his Majesty, expressing their grief and astonishment at the extraordinary and disgraceful Convention lately entered into by the Commanders of his Majesty's Forces in Portugal, and the Commander of the French Army at Lisbon, praying his Majesty to institute such an enquiry into this dishonourable and unprecedented transaction, as will lead to the discovery and punishment of those, by whose misconduct and incapacity the cause of this Country and its Allies have been so shamefully sacrificed."

On Tuesday the LORD MAYOR ordered the price of bread to be raised two assizes, or 4d. in the peck loaf. The quartern loaf of wheaten is now sold for 1s. 2½d. and household 1s. 1d.

On Friday se'nnight the account of JUNOT's surrender was read on the stage in the Southampton theatre.—Lady DALRYMPLE was there, and not having heard of the news before, fainted away.

Mr. DICKIE, the Stationer, who has been so long a prisoner in the Fleet, died yesterday morning in that prison. This unfortunate man was confined on account of his inability to pay the damages awarded against him for a libel on that immaculate gaoler, ARIS. Death has been more merciful than his persecutors.

It is reported that Generals DALRYMPLE and WELLESLEY used, in writing the Convention with JUNOT, a pen made of a *Goose's* quill, and that JUNOT used one made of *Gold*. The French are fond of *fine* things.

The Covent Garden Company have engaged the Opera House to perform in. They commence to-morrow evening. It is rumoured, that the price of admission to the Pit and Boxes will be advanced.

There has been a good deal of fulsome cant in the Papers about the *fortitude* evinced by Mr. HARRIS and Mr. KEMBLE when informed of the late fire, merely because they acted like reasonable men and did not play the fool. After all, the *poor* actors and assistants at the theatre are most to be pitied: what they have lost they will sensibly feel. Neither Mr. HARRIS nor Mr. KEMBLE will drink a bottle of wine the less; but some of the underlings may really want bread in wanting employment. Nothing is said of the *fortitude* of the scene-shifters and candle-snuffers, for they can neither give good dinners nor free admissions.

The number of lives lost at the late conflagration is supposed to amount to *twenty-two*, and above double that number are in different hospitals, burnt and maimed, many of whom are not yet out of danger. One of these unfortunate sufferers, at present in the hospital, has a wife and 14 children, the eldest of whom has not attained manhood.

A Gentleman of the name of HANSER, who was taken in Islington-fields yesterday morning, where he had gone for the purpose of fighting a duel, was held in sufficient sureties to keep the peace. His intended antagonist is a *ci-devant* hotel-keeper, and the informant was a female relative of the former.

The Editors of the excellent *Review of Publications of Art*,—a work conducted with no common talent,—have joined the friends of Mr. C. GRIGNION, the engraver, in soliciting a subscription in his favour, in the following pathetic address:—"Mr. GRIGNION has arrived at the very advanced age of 90 years, is consequently past the exercise of his powers as an artist, and has a wife and daughter (the latter nearly blind,) dependent on him for support, or rather now dependent upon the benevolence of the public.—Behold then, reader, the united claims of virtue, old age, professional merit, and filial and parental sufferings."

We particularly recommend the following passage from the above Review to the consideration of the Patrons of the British Institution:—"We wish to see among the public, knowledge and taste to appreciate the arduous studies of the engraver who follows his profession as an art, and reward the severe restraints which we know are attendant on his toil, and to this end, we could wish to see a sanctioned place of public exhibition for the meritorious productions of this as of the other arts: some better place, at least, than the mercenary and often merciless hand of an ignorant dealer shall find or fancy it his interest to allot them:—some place, such as the generous care of the noblemen and gentlemen of the British Institution might easily and at small expence engraft upon their present establishment, and where, we venture to anticipate, the grateful art would amply repay the attention that would be necessary to its culture, by the superior beauty of its blossoms and the high flavour of its fruits."

SPANISH GRANDEES.—A Knight of Spain, as high in birth as a King, as catholic as the POPE, and equal to JOB in poverty, arriving one night at an inn in France, knocked a long time at the gate, till he had alarmed the landlord. "Who is there?" said the host, looking out of the window. The Spaniard replied, "Don Juan Pedro Hernandez Rodriquez de Ville Nova, Count of Malafra, Knight Santiago and Alcantara."—"I am very sorry," replied the landlord, shutting the window, "but I have not room enough in my house for all those Gentlemen you have mentioned."

A very ignorant Nobleman observing one day at dinner a person eminent for his philosophical talents intent on choosing the delicacies of the table, said to him—"What, do Philosophers love dainties?"—"Why not?" returned the scholar. "Do you think, my Lord, that the good things of this world were made only for blockheads?"

It was curious enough that LEWIS XIVth, the murder of thousands in sanguinary wars, to gratify his pride and mean ambition, abolished in France that species of murder called duelling! On this event, a French bully observed, "The King has taken away gaming and stage-playing, and now fighting too. How does he expect gentlemen shall *divert* themselves?"

ARGUMENTS AGAINST DUELLING.

1. Duelling is an affront to the supremacy of the Laws, in a man's becoming his own lawgiver, judge, and executioner.

2. It is an injury to the nation, whose best riches is its population, and which alone has a right to hazard the lives of individuals by employing them in dangerous service.

3. It is cruelty and injustice to friends and relatives, who have an imperious demand on the continuation and services of our lives.

4. It is an impious violation of the Divine Law, which pronounces only the involuntary killing of another innocent, and an affront to the Supreme Being, by so slight a valuation of his important gift of life.

5. It is manifestly unjust, as its proportion of punishment is infinitely inadequate to the offence in almost all cases.

6. It is absurd, in its equal chance of counteracting as fulfilling its purpose, in the equal danger of the challenger and challenged, and in the folly of profusion, which is far greater in the waste of blood than that of money on inadequate occasions, as life is infinitely more valuable than property.

7. It is a mistaken conceit, a mean notion of honour, because a man of true dignity will never condescend to acknowledge so violent, so disproportioned a resentment for so inadequate an affront as that which, with very rare exceptions, originates the quarrel. A challenge is mostly occasioned by pride in the challenger, and pride is consummate meanness.

8. It has no example among the noblest nations of antiquity, having never been even thought of by them.

The conduct therefore of Duellists, and of Juries in acquitting them of murder, is foolish, mean, immoral, and impious.

R. H.

ADDRESS TO HIS MAJESTY

ON THE LATE INFAMOUS DISASTER IN PORTUGAL, AND FOR A MILITARY REFORM.

SIRE,

As the best glory and happiness of a King is involved with the dignity and prosperity of his people, I heartily sympathise with your Majesty's feelings on the late dire disgrace of your Majesty's arms in Portugal. Your Majesty, as the hereditary public Steward, Guardian, and Executor of the concerns of my family, ordered a sufficient number of my brave sons in arms to subdue the perfidious French, who had basely invaded, plundered, and possest the land and property of the old friend and ally of my family, the Portuguese. These French had the temerity to march forth to meet and combat my brave sons, superior as they were in number to those slaves, notwithstanding their uneasy recollection of their having been often chastised and completely beaten out of the field by a very inferior number of my family. They were of course completely beaten out of the field as usual, at Vimeira, and might have been annihilated, or compelled to surrender at discretion, had not an old gentleman, who pretended to military science, and to whom your Majesty's Ministers, unfortunately and shamefully committed the supreme command, instead of following up Sir Arthur's victory, and exterminating or capturing every individual of the enemy, foolishly, if not traitorously, negociated with him, permitting him to escape safely home with arms for the future annoyance of my family, friends, and allies; and, O shame to the name of Briton, assisting him with all his might, and even with politeness, to go home, and to sell and to carry off the valuable plunder of the poor Portuguese who had been his friends.

As an awful example of justice, and to diminish, as much as possible, the black and indelible stain of this detestable transaction, my aggrieved family most earnestly solicit your Majesty to bring to condign punishment those miscreants of the army in Portugal who had power and rank to advise or who did not solemnly protest against this heinous crime against their God, their Country, and their King.

This dreadful calamity, so subversive of the honour, interests, and happiness of my family, is unanimously and indignantly attributed to a military system, *radically wrong*, where merit and long and arduous service are supplanted by stupidity, and the pitiful, unjust claims of family, fortune, and rank.

Your Majesty, as the Constitutional Public Steward of my family's property, and its hereditary Guardian, is implored to take this baneful system into your most serious consideration, to abolish it, and not to permit any one, however nominally high his rank and connections, however great his government influence, were he even a Prince, to hold high military power, unless he has proved himself worthy of it. This reform is also imprest on your Majesty's consideration, not only by the general wish of my family, but by the best of all reasons, that of the *many valuable lives and much hard-earned treasure which may be squandered to no purpose, or to a base one, by* SILLY, CORRUPT, AND PROFLIGATE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF, to the probable destruction of the Empire.

My highly deserving family has suffered too long and too severely in various parts of the globe, not to urge the necessity of this Military Reform most solemnly on your Majesty's consideration, that the bravery, the blood, the treasure and the patriotism of that family, so often and so gloriously directed by Marlborough, Wolfe, Abercrombie, Stuart and innumerable others, may not be wasted in a repetition of the disastrous and disgraceful expeditions of America, Holland, Flanders, and Portugal.

This Address is presented not humbly, because as a Briton, whose ancestry placed your Majesty in the proud station which your Majesty has the honour to fill, I am too justly sensible of the dignity and independence of my family to adopt such mere courtier-like and unmeaning phraseology. It is presented to the Chief Magistrate, who reflects their own collective dignity and power, with that warm attachment, that rational, profound, and dutiful respect of which mere humility is incapable. It is presented by one who will call forth and sacrifice all the energies of his existence in the Constitutional service of your Majesty's person and Crown; but, alas, it is presented amidst the deep groans of shame, the dejection of countenance, the poignant anxiety of my numerous family at this most deplorable disaster in Portugal. It is written in their tears, while their pathetic complaints every where resound on my estate, in the streets, the houses, the public resorts, and the fields,

But the sunshine of your Majesty's princely and paternal goodness in acceding to this petition, would in some measure cheer the universal gloom this direful event has occasioned in the family of your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted subject,

JOHN BULL.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

No. 28.

The danger of occasional songs.—Character of Ophelia. The great injury it suffers from professed singers. Mrs. Corri's first appearance in it.—Mr. Scriven's first appearance in Hodge.

DRURY-LANE.

A DRAMATIST should be cautious how he introduces an occasional song or two in a character not essentially operatic. The actor or singer are so seldom united, that one or the other is almost sure to predominate; and as there are more singers who can manage to act than actors who can manage to sing, the author's intention is gradually done away, and instead of a song incidental to the character, the character is made incidental to the song. When SHAKSPEARE fancied his *Ophelia*, and represented her with that amiable mixture of reserve and frankness that constitutes the charm of female manners, when he painted her as the lady, the sister, the daughter, and the fond mistress, each with it's own charm and it's united charm, when he gave us that beautiful picture of a delicate mind disturbed not distorted into madness, that insanity full of genius and of patient anguish, in which the chords are tangled not snapped, in which the last weakness of nature has not destroyed her strength of mind nor the last suffering her thoughts of her father, he little thought that such a female and such a picture could ever degenerate into a mere singing-girl, a mere opera debutante, full of stage.

attitudes and a ridiculous self-possession, rational when she should be insane, and insane in nothing but her rationality. Yet such has *Ophelia* been repeatedly rendered in an age that professes to idolize SHAKSPEARE, such is she continually represented in English theatres, and such was she represented last Tuesday in the person of a new *singer*, who is said to be the wife of Mr. CORRI the composer. Mrs. CORRI has a sensible countenance, but it possesses no power of expression for the supernatural and ever-shifting genius of insanity; her tones in speaking are for the most part of a melodious depth and reminded every body of Miss BOYCE, but she has by no means the feminine delicacy of that amiable little statue: her vocal expression is at times animated and generally tasteful, though her upper notes are sometimes unsettled and incomplete: she is in short a respectable singer, much better I dare say in a room where she has nothing to act, than on a stage where she can act nothing. But neither a respectable singer, nor the best singer in the world, simply considered, is a fit person to represent *Ophelia*, whose songs were never intended to shew the powers of her voice but the immediate power of her feelings, and I must protest against all such degradations of SHAKSPEARE, especially when the Managers of Drury-lane possess such performers as Miss DUNCAN and Mrs. JORDAN. If Mrs. JORDAN is too large in person for the delicacy of *Ophelia's* appearance, yet it is better, I should think, to have an exuberance of size than a deficiency of sensibility, and at any rate, there is Mrs. H. SIDDONS, who if not like Mrs. CORRI with respect to vocal powers, is a hundred times better in the insinuations, the expostulations, the complaints, and all the other varieties of little songs of feeling. Mr. THOMAS SHERIDAN, who is reported to be the new Manager, is said to be a man of taste in music. Let this gentleman consult his father on the subject of singing actors; let him ask him, how he has felt when Mr. KELLY has been making love in the *Duenna*.

Another singer, a Mr. SCRIVEN, from Edinburgh, made his first appearance at this theatre on Thursday in the character of *Hodge* in *Love in a Village*. The character, which is a mere vehement clown, a perjured swain, who adds blows to unfaithfulness, and threatens to kick his fair one out of doors, is no very ambitious part for a first appearance; and Mr. SCRIVEN must be allowed the praise of understanding his author's level in the character, for he was very confident, noisy, and unentertaining. The songs are not worth criticising as affording opportunities for a singer: Mr. SCRIVEN sung them with a very jolly insolence and in very good tune, but he did nothing, or in other words he invented nothing for his author, and this is almost as bad work for Mr. BICKERSTAFF as for Mr. DIBDIN. Both his acting and singing wanted variety; I do not mean buffoonery, but such an air of novelty, such an allowable quaintness, as Mr. MATHEWS can give the character without injuring it's nature. While MATHEWS therefore is at Drury-lane, the theatre cannot possibly want an actor like Mr. SCRIVEN, who is at best a Mr. BEVERLEY turned singer. He would be a very good performer in rustic chorusses, but he has not sufficient prominence to be alone. His talent lies in assisting others, and this will be the best way of assisting himself. In short, he will be himself in a host, but he will never be a host in himself.

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OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

THE performances of Covent-Garden Theatre commenced on Monday week, with the attractions of Mrs. SIDDONS, and on Tuesday morning last the season was abruptly terminated by the destruction of the theatre by fire, in the manner which another part of the paper relates. This theatre was built in 1733, and first occupied by the company of Mr. RICH, the celebrated harlequin, and composer of spectacles, in whose management it continued till his death in 1761, when the concern devolved upon Mr. BEARD, the singer, his son-in-law. The theatre was at first built without a one-shilling gallery; but the *vox populi vox Deorum* soon gained this object, and the unsightly roof which the theatre presented is to be attributed to the subsequent addition of its one-shilling gallery. The performances of this theatre of course took their tone from the peculiar talents of its managers, presenting, in Mr. RICH's time, little worth seeing but shew and the prince of harlequins, and in Mr. BEARD's, guiding the taste of the town too strongly to such operas as have been since followed by that train of evils, of which COBB and the DIBDINS are the immediate authors. It was in Mr. RICH's management however that GAY's *Beggar's Opera* was produced, as every one of my readers must recollect who knows that the success of that opera was said, by a kind of cross-pun, to have made *Gay Rich* and *Rich Gay*: and, that Mr. BEARD patronized the class of operas, to which I have alluded, may be proved by BICKERSTAFF's dedication of his *Love in a Village* to that Gentleman.

In 1767 Mr. BEARD retired, and a negotiation was set on foot by Messrs. HARRIS and RUTHERFORD for the purchase of all the property in the theatre, which belonged to the then proprietors; but the advantage of having a capital performer as one of the sharers being suggested, Mr. POWELL was invited to join them, and he recommended Mr. COLMAN as a person from whom the undertaking would receive great benefit. The proposal being assented to by the several parties, the property of the theatre was assigned in August 1767. The conduct of the stage was entrusted to Mr. COLMAN; and the house opened on the 14th of September with the comedy of the *Rehearsal*, and a prologue written by PAUL WHITEHEAD, and spoken by Mr. POWELL. Mr. RUTHERFORD, after many disputes among all the managers, sold his share of the theatre to Messrs. LEAKE and DAGGE. Mr. POWELL died in July 1769, and his widow afterwards married Dr. FISHER, who by that means became entitled to some part of her late husband's interest in the theatre. Mr. COLMAN managed the affairs of the stage until the year 1774, when his right was purchased by the rest of his partners, to whom it was immediately assigned. Since this the management has been successively vested in Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. KEMBLE, the last of which Gentlemen has purchased a share of the proprietorship, and is now manager of

the concern; but, from the general tenor of his management, I am sorry that instead of concluding this brief chronicle with the customary *whom God long preserve!* it will be much more congenial to the wishes of the town to hope that, as a stage-manager, Mr. KEMBLE may be speedily removed. B. F.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND BEILBY PORTEUS, LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

MY LORD,—Notwithstanding your induction of Mr. Usko, a foreigner, pious and learned as he is said to be, into a valuable English living, while so many of our excellent native Clergy "starve in pining solitude," sullied in a degree the purity of your lawn sleeves, you have still the credit of having the welfare of your diocese seriously at heart. I therefore address you on the existence of an evil of considerable magnitude, which I think you have some power to remedy.

The health of a people constitutes so material a portion of national strength, greatness, and happiness, that it is surprising the Legislature has never interfered to prohibit *Burials in cities and towns.* Their consequent corruption of the atmosphere demands as immediate and effectual a remedy as the corruption of our civil constitution, which in a great measure lies dead. The inconvenience attending the removal of the deceased from the precincts of towns is trifling in comparison of the mischief of noxious and putrid effluvia. The numerous cemetaries in London, mostly crammed with putrescence, impregnate the air with disease and death, and the dead lie in ambush to exterminate the living. Numerous instances can be substantiated of their unwholesomeness in confined and populous regions, and it is unanimously admitted by medical professors.

This baneful practice was rigidly prohibited by the Roman laws of the twelve tables. The Romans adopted the pure mode of burning the deceased to ashes, after the time of the tyrant Dictator Sylla, on whose remains the practice commenced. The primitive Christians forbade interments in towns and villages, and it was not till nearly the lapse of ten centuries that the disgusting and destructive practice was began of defiling the sanctuaries and precincts of religion.

"I apprehend, "says a lively writer, "that the inhabitants of any parish, assembling in vestry, the ordinary and diocesan not objecting, are fully authorized to purchase a piece of ground, *properly situated*, for a burying-ground, and that the clergyman might be prevailed on without difficulty to add the field round the church to his glebe, with this especial proviso, that it never shall be fed, as I have often seen with regret and resentment the rector's horses and cows defiling the tombs of my forefathers, and stumbling over their venerable remains, while that incorrigible sot the sexton, whom my fingers itched to horsewhip, up to his chip in human mould, and enveloped in the fumes of gin and tobacco, was humming some vulgar ditty, or battering the bones of my ancestors!" At any rate, my Lord, your interference and influence might considerably contribute to remove these evils. A celebrated French physician, who had been active in his opposition to the common mode of town-burial, directed his executors to inter him in an open space, a few miles from Paris. A monument in the garden of a Staffordshire gentleman, has the following inscription: "It was my particular desire to be buried rather in my garden than in a church or churchyard, lest he who had by every means in his power studied to promote the welfare of mankind, while alive, should, when dead, prove injurious to his survivors, and defile the house of God."

He who is concerned for the spiritual welfare of his flock, will be proportionably anxious for their bodily, I therefore feel confident that this address will not be unavailing with your Lordship. R. H.

DESTRUCTION OF COVENT GARDEN THEATRE

About four o'clock on Tuesday morning, a female servant awoke Mr. Hughes, the treasurer, who resides in the theatre, and told him it was on fire. It was soon discovered that the fire proceeded from the upper part of the theatre, and thus the persons who inhabit it had an opportunity to effect their escape. When the quantity and quality of the combustible matter, of which the building and its contents were composed, are considered, it may be easily conceived that the flames burnt fiercely, and that the fire quickly attained a great height, and assumed a most awful appearance. The crackling of the flames was heard at the extremities of the Strand. As the heavy timbers fell, the light burning matter was thrown up to an immense height and extent, and the whole atmosphere was filled with floating flakes of fire, which fell in all directions, spreading consternation, and threatening ruin to the whole neighbourhood, on which it fell like a burning shower. The attendance at Covent-garden market is pretty full at that hour, and a crowd of people were of course on the spot; but as the fire broke out somewhere contiguous to the Upper Gallery, and the wind blew the flames to the eastward, the fire had raged within for some time before the alarm became general. About half past four o'clock the Volunteers began to assemble, and the engines to arrive from every quarter of the town; but nearly an hour had elapsed before any sufficient supply of water could be obtained. At this time the whole theatre was one complete body of fire. It raged with most violence on the upper end of Bow-street, the western side of which, nearly as far as the Police-office, was soon burned down, to the extent of eight or nine houses. In Hart-street, the flames communicated to the houses on the side opposite the theatre, and four of them caught fire at the same moment; but by the great activity of the people and firemen, they suffered little more damage than a severe scorching. Some apprehensions were entertained for the safety of Drury-lane theatre, as the flakes of fire were carried by the wind with force and in great quantities in that direction. A great number of people mounted the roof, ready, in case of actual fire, to open the immense reservoir of water provided there. They also stopped the windows with wet cloths, to prevent the entrance of the flames, and thus secured the theatre. All the people in the neighbourhood took a similar precaution, and were employed with their servants in picking up the flakes of fire as they fell upon the roofs or in the court-yards, and upon the out-houses. It was not merely the light matter that was thus dispersed in a flaming state. Solid lumps of burning cinders, coals, and wood, might be seen in the streets as far as Temple-bar. Of the light matter, pieces of books and paper were carried by the wind, which, during the most violent period of the conflagration, was at S. W. as far as Moorfields, where they were picked up. Such was the appearance in the vicinity of the theatre, the inhabitants of which were exposed to a shower of fire, with a blazing light around them, reflecting the brightness of meridian

day, and those in the immediate vicinity of the burning pile, emptying their houses, and flying in all directions, to a place of safety for themselves, their children, and their property. To the people in the suburbs, or approaching town in the mail-coaches, it made a more magnificent appearance. The site of the theatre being upon a great elevation, and the building lofty, it was seen at a considerable distance; and it seemed as if the whole quarter of the city, from St. Martin's-lane to Temple-bar, was wrapt in flames. The above, however, is the whole extent of injury sustained in the neighbourhood, but as to the theatre itself, it is totally consumed, and, on the Hart-street side, not even the walls are standing. The Ship Tavern, and part of Mr. Brandon's (box-keeper) office, are all standing at that angle. The most painful part of this dreadful event still remains to be described. At an early stage of the fire, a party of firemen broke open the great door under the Piazza, on the western side, and having introduced an engine into the passages in the interior, they directed it towards the galleries; where the fire appeared to burn most fiercely, when, melancholy to relate, the part of the building over the passage, which they thought was a stone arch, but proved to be merely an imitation of stone, fell in, and buried them, with several others who had rushed in along with them, in the ruins.—It was a considerable time before the rubbish, which now blocked up the door, could be cleared away. When it was effected, a miserable spectacle presented itself. The mangled bodies of dead and dying appearing through the rubbish, or discovered in each advance to remove it.—They were conveyed to St. Paul's, Covent Garden.

A party of ruffians, taking the advantage of the general consternation and distress, began to plunder, but eight of them were apprehended and lodged in Covent Garden watch-house. A gang of pickpockets also committed great depredations. At ten o'clock, however, a party of horse soldiers was sent to keep off the crowd, and a party of foot soldiers to relieve the Volunteers.

The money and the title deeds which were in the iron chest have been saved. The money was saved by the activity of Mr. Hughes, and the honesty of the old woman who awoke him. He ran to the treasury on the first alarm, and loaded her with two bags of money, with which he sent her off, without any dress but her petticoat, to Mr. Boyce, a tax-gatherer in York-street. On her arrival at Mr. Boyce's, however, and knocking at the door, the servant seeing such a figure at such an hour, refused admittance, supposing her a mad woman. The poor woman, thus excluded, and fearing to inform the passengers of the treasure, sat down upon the bags, at the steps of the door, and there remained until the return of Mr. Hughes, who had originally escorted her to the door. Of all the rest of this great property, such was the fierceness of the flames, scarcely any thing was preserved. The King's Arms, a Roman Eagle, Mother Goose, a few other pantomimic devices and pieces of mechanism, and some pikes, halberts, &c. used in processions, were all that were saved.

The men of the Phœnix Office were the principal sufferers. On their arrival at the great door under the Piazza, they were met by Mr. Kemble, who had arrived at an early hour, and were humanely apprized by him, of the great danger of entering at that door. He told them that the rooms of the Shakespeare, immediately adjoining, were used as a warehouse to the Theatre, and were filled with powder, oil, and other very inflammable matter, and entreated them not to run any risk. These brave and bold fellows answered, "Where danger is, there is our duty;" and rushed forward.

It is not yet ascertained, nor perhaps ever will be, from what cause the fire originated. It was rumoured that the theatre had been wilfully set on fire, but there does not appear any ground for a suspicion of this nature. It was also supposed, that the wadding of the gun fired during the performance of *Pizarro*, had lodged in one of the scenes, and that the fire had originated from this cause, but the wadding used for that purpose was so slight a piece of paper, that it is scarcely possible it could have caused any injury. Many other conjectures have been hazarded as to the cause of the fire, but in this, as in most other cases of a similar nature, there scarcely appears any possibility of ascertaining with the least certainty the actual cause of the conflagration. The fire was first discovered in a room next to Hart-street, which was chiefly used as a repository for scenes not in immediate use.

The amount of the insurance will scarcely cover more than one fourth of the loss, or at least of the sum necessary to replace what has been destroyed. To replace indeed some of the property destroyed is impossible. Of the originals of the music of Handel, Arne, and other eminent composers, which were destroyed, there are no copies. A great number of valuable scenes, many of them new, and prepared at a great expence, were also destroyed.

It was stated in some of the papers that a Mr. John Johnstone was killed; but this is erroneous; there was no person of that name among the sufferers. Mr. Watkins, of York-street, was stated to have suffered, but he was not hurt. It was a Mr. Richards, clerk to Messrs. Shaw and Edwards, St. Paul's Church-yard, who was scalded so much with the water falling from the burning materials, that he died in Mr. Watkins' house about 12 o'clock on the same day. Another mistake also occurred with respect to the name of Mr. Harris. It was not Mr. Harris, optician, of 47, Holborn, who met with the misfortune stated, but Mr. Thomas Harris, jun. of Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, who was a Serjeant in the Bloomsbury Volunteers. He was amongst those who were overwhelmed by the flaming ruins. A hole was made in the wall, next the Shakespeare, for the purpose of extricating the sufferers, and he was the second who was by this means got out. He was conveyed to his father's house, and afterwards walked to his own, at a short distance, but he was so much burnt, that he died at four o'clock the same afternoon, leaving a widow and three children to lament his death. Of those who were taken to hospitals, two are since dead; one of them a fireman belonging to the Phœnix Office, of the name of Sayers, in the Middlesex Hospital, and another fireman belonging to the London Assurance Office. Several more are in the Hospitals whose lives are despaired of.

Another accident happened on Wednesday. One of the walls in Hart-street appeared in a tottering state, and some persons near it were warned of their danger, but a few still remained, and the wall falling, one of them, a labouring man, was killed on the spot, and several others were much bruised.

Amongst the sufferers by the fire, is Mr. Donne, who kept the Strugglers Coffee-house, he has lost all his property, no part of which was insured. Amongst the losses of individuals connected with the theatre, it is stated, that Mr. Ware lost a violin of the value of 300l.; Miss Bolton, her jewels; Mr. Munden, his wardrobe, valued at 300l.; and Miss Bristow, dresses and ornaments of the value of 200l.; Hill, the copyist, lost the greatest part of his furniture.

The loss to the theatre itself is in fact irretrievable. The property is insured—

In the Sun, for	£25,000
In the Phœnix, for	13,000
In the Royal Exchange, for	5,000
In the Union, for	5,000

which makes a total of 48,000l. It is said that there are other insurances nearly to the amount of 20,000l. more, But among the property lost, there is, besides the usual stock of scenery, an additional quantity for a new melo-drama which was shortly to be brought forward; there were also a great quantity of pieces of music, of which, though the outline might have been given in many books,

correct copy had not yet been taken; some dramatic productions, the property of the theatre, have also been for ever lost to the proprietors and to the public. Of the probable value of the theatre a fair estimate may be taken when it is stated that Mr. J. Kemble, not long since, gave 25,000l. for 1-6th share.

Handel's celebrated organ, supposed to be worth 1000 guineas, and which that celebrated composer gave by his will to Covent-Garden Theatre, and was only heard in the Oratorios, is completely destroyed.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

An Inquest was held on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. Belshaw, the corner of James-street, in the Piazza, Covent-garden, before Anthony Gell, Esq, Coroner for Westminster, on the bodies of those unfortunate persons who lost their lives at this dreadful fire.

The principal witness was W. Adocott, of Little Russel-street, stage carpenter at Covent-garden Theatre. He deposed, that on Monday night the play of *Pizarro* was performed. At about half after eleven o'clock, upon the final dropping of the curtain, as the audience was going away, he quitted the theatre and went home. He went to bed at nearly twelve o'clock; at four in the morning he was awakened by Mr. Carmichael, a baker, his next door neighbour, who informed him that the theatre was on fire. Upon going to Hart-street, he saw the theatre was in a blaze. He then went to the pit door, where he saw the British and some other fire engines. Mr. Hughes, the treasurer's door was broken open. Mr. Brandon then came and gave the witness several keys belonging to the theatre, in order to obtain the more easy access for the firemen; but in the confusion and agitation of mind which the persons connected with the theatre were then in, they were unable to fit the keys to the locks which they wished to unfasten. The doors were then forced open; but though there was a reservoir within the theatre, there was not any hose at hand which could fit the engines. Messrs. Hadley and Simkins, of Long-Acre, sent some hose and two or three of their small engines, which played with considerable effect. The witness then went round to the Piazza-door, where he saw the Phœnix fire-engine worked by about a dozen men inside of the great entrance-gate. The witness advised one of the engineers to remove from that spot, as, from his local knowledge of the theatre, he could perceive that the men were in imminent danger. The fire was then bursting through from the boxes towards Covent-garden Market, and the room over their heads, called Apollo Room, was also in a blaze. The witness was told to mind his own business, and accordingly quitted the place, and returned to the Bow-street side of the theatre. By this time he could perceive that the whole of the theatre was one solid body of fire. It was impossible for him to ascertain the cause; he could state, that it appeared to him to have begun about the centre of the house, towards the left side of the building. In less than half an hour after he was told by one of the firemen that the house was down, and that some of their men were killed. Upon returning again to the Piazzas, he saw the workmen busily engaged in digging for the bodies; and perceived that it was the Apollo Room which had fallen in. He believed that, if it had not been for a strong party-wall which had been but lately erected, the Bedford Coffee-house must certainly have fallen, and then the whole row of houses on that side of the Piazzas would have been in danger. The houses which were burnt in Bow-street, were those of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Hill, Mr. Sloper, Mr. Hughes (the Treasurer), and Mr. M'Kinley (bookbinder). There was a watchman inside of the theatre, who had a fire and a chair, but no bed; it was his business to go round the principal parts of the theatre every hour, but it was supposed that he had fallen asleep, as it was not until after some considerable knocking at the doors that he answered. There was not at any time more powder kept in the theatre than what was necessary for the night; and he did not suppose it at all probable that there was any more than two pounds of powder in the theatre at the time of the accident, and that was placed in a very opposite part of the theatre to that in which the accident took place.

One of the Gentlemen of the Jury observed, that he had seen a man dug out of the ruins with his hair and beard actually on fire. The Juryman wiped the parts with his handkerchief, and extinguished the fire; but on the sleeves of his jacket, the skin came off the poor fellow's arms, and hung over his hands. The unfortunate man was then put into a coach and conveyed to an hospital. Mr. Sass, jun. of Holborn, was also dug out, but he was able to walk towards home.

William Darby, a fireman, belonging to the Eagle Insurance Office, heard a dreadful crash on the Piazza side of the theatre, at about seven o'clock in the morning.—With difficulty he forced through the crowd. The great folding doors at that entrance to the theatre were then almost closed, by the heap of timber, bricks, &c. which had fallen on the inside. He lent a hand to cut down one side of the door. Two men were dug out of the ruins alive. Another person was then found in a sitting posture, but he was dead, and shockingly mutilated. The rest were afterwards dug out from among the ruins; but he could not ascertain any more, than that two of them were firemen, belonging to the Phœnix, and that another was one of the Gentlemen Volunteers.

The names of the deceased were, as far as could be ascertained, as follow—Richard Cadgar, T. Holmes, James Hunt, William Jones, (a printer,) Richard Rushton (tailor,) W. Ricklesworth and George Kirby, (firemen belonging to the Phœnix,) James Evans, T. Mead, and Mr. Richard Davis, a gentleman who had but lately come to town from Wales, on a visit. There were two others whose persons could not be identified.

After the conclusion of the evidence, the Coroner observed, that in his opinion this melancholy event was purely accidental. The Jury would then consult and pronounce their opinion on the case as it then stood, without they should think that any further evidence was necessary. In that case, he should certainly comply with their wishes. There was one good result from this public and minute inquiry, which was, that it would be seen that there was not the slightest blame attributable to those who had the management of the theatre; and it would also be another benefit resulting from this public explanation of all the circumstances connected with this unfortunate and most truly distressing accident, the relatives of the deceased would find some consolation in the midst of their affliction for the loss of a relation or friend, when they found that it was proved on oath that these persons with whom they were nearly connected, though they had met with a premature or untimely fate, had been called into the presence of their Maker in the performance of a most benevolent act, and had left an honourable name behind them.

The Jury immediately agreed, that the deceased came by their deaths by the accidental falling in of the Apollo Room.

Another Coroner's Inquest took place on Wednesday night at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the body of John Sayers, a person belonging to the Phœnix Insurance Company; Mr. Hewit, plumber; and John Beaumont, a private in the 1st Regiment of Guards, who perished at the fire at Covent-Garden Theatre.

Wm. Brookes, one of the firemen belonging to the Phœnix Company, deposed, that at about five o'clock in the morning he entered with the engine to which he belonged, at the great door of the theatre opposite to the Piazza, in Covent-Garden. The engine had been playing some time, when a person came to him, and asked him, do you know what you are working under? He replied, he did not; and the person then told him it was the carpenter's shop

that was over the archway under which he was working, and that it was all a blaze of fire. He attempted to go up and examine the state of it, but could not face the flames. After some more working he was taken ill, and told one of his companions that he must retire for a short time. He had not gone more than a minute when the stack of chimnies fell upon the engine, and buried all those that were about it. He did not know the names of all who suffered, but could speak positively to Sayers.

Other witnesses identified the persons of Mr. Hewit and the private of the Guards.

The Coroner then shortly stated to the Jury the evidence which had been given, who, without hesitation, found their verdict—Accidental Death.

On Thursday an Inquest was also held at the Middlesex Hospital on the bodies of Richard Bird, a coachmaker in Long-Acre, and Jonas Philkins, a coal-heaver, who died on the preceding evening, in consequence of their having been dreadfully scorched in Covent-Garden Theatre. The only witness was Mrs. Mary Bryan, a nurse in the Hospital, who stated their having both been brought to the Hospital, and, notwithstanding every exertion was made to save their lives, they both expired in great agony. The circumstances of the fire being notorious, no evidence was called upon it, and the Jury immediately returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

A Coroner's Inquest was also held at the Dolphin public house, Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, on the body of Mr. Thomas Harris, of Hyde-street, who was unfortunately killed by the fire at Covent-Garden Theatre. Mr. Sass, a member of the Loyal North Britons, said that he observed the deceased particularly active in keeping away the mob from the west door of the Theatre, when the floor of the Apollo Room fell, and he was unfortunately killed. The witness was thrown down himself, and carried away in a state of insensibility. He understood that Mr. Harris died soon afterwards. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Notwithstanding the number of unfortunate persons, whose bodies were dug from the ruins on the morning of the fire, and those who were extricated alive, but have since died, it is feared the total extent of the casualties have not yet been even nearly ascertained; and many bodies are still supposed to remain buried under the ruins, for the extrication of which, a number of labourers are constantly employed.—On Friday, the mutilated remains, or indeed, rather the skeletons, of two unfortunate persons were dug from the ruins, and taken to Covent Garden bone-house to be owned; but the miserable change they have undergone has so far destroyed all vestige of former likeness, that it is almost impossible they can be recognized by their friends.

The Proprietors have already begun to take measures for the erection of another theatre. There are some considerations in the structure of such a building, which are exceedingly well worthy of their notice, and very important to the public in general. It is desirable that the avenues to the house be both numerous, and so contrived as to prevent all possibility of danger in case of a fire during the time of performance. The new stage will perhaps be a little larger than the last; and it is said, that instead of the north, as before, the new stage will be situated on the south of the theatre. It is hoped that the house will be insulated.

THEATRICAL CONFLAGRATIONS.

Drury-lane Theatre was built 1662; destroyed by fire 1672; rebuilt 1674; pulled down 1791; rebuilt 1794.

Covent-garden Theatre was built 1733; enlarged 1792; destroyed by fire 1808.

Opera-House, Haymarket, opened 1704; burnt down 1789; the foundation of a new one laid 1790.

Pantheon, Oxford-street; opened 1772; converted to an Opera-house 1784; burnt down 1792.

Astley's Amphitheatre, burnt down on the Duke of York's birth-night, 1794; rebuilt, and burnt down a second time in 1803.

Royal Circus, destroyed by fire on the Prince of Wales's birth-day, 1805.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A melancholy accident occurred on Thursday evening in Blackfriars Road. Lord Mansfield was passing in his carriage, when two little playfellows, the one a boy of five years old, the other of four, were crossing the road. The latter, unseen to the coachman, was struck down by one of the horses, and in spite of their efforts to rein back, the horses sprung forward, and one of the wheels passed over the child's body, and bruised him so severely, that he was taken immediately to St. Thomas's Hospital and almost immediately expired. Lord Mansfield instantly quitting his carriage, appeared much shocked, and went into the shop of Mr. Harding, watch-maker, where he gave his address, requested that every care might be taken of the child, and said he would do every thing in his power to mitigate the sorrow of the parents. The distracted mother of the child has the additional affliction of her husband being in prison for debt.

A young couple, who were to have been married on Monday, residents of Putney, on Thursday week, about five o'clock in the evening, engaged a skiff for a little recreation, and went up the river; a sail was fixed in the boat, and it is supposed the then happy pair were playing together, when the boat upset, and, unfortunately, they were both drowned. They had a dog with them, who, on the accident, immediately made for the shore, went to the young woman's house, howled piteously, and dragged the mother by the gown, thus making known the fate of her only daughter. The dead bodies were dragged for, on Friday, and found at ten o'clock at night, locked in each other's arms. While they were being lifted from the water, by some means the young man separated from his fellow-sufferer, again sunk, and has not since been recovered. The young man's name is Hill; and Cooper is the name of the young woman.

MARRIAGES.

On Monday last, at Lichfield, Charles Holland Hastings, Esq. Major of the 63d Regiment, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late Lieut. Gen. Gardiner, Commander of the Forces in Nova Scotia.

DEATHS.

On Thursday morning, in Fludyer-street, Westminster, Arthur Windus, Esq. who filled the situation of Cashier, and other departments in the War Office, for more than 27 years.

On Thursday se'nnight, at Brighton, of a phrenzy fever, after three days illness, Mr. T. Weston, hatter, of that town, aged 40 years.

On Thursday se'nnight, the Rev. J. Fisher, Rector of Marske, near Richmond, in consequence of a fatal accident on the Moors, on the 16th of last month.

Last week, at Wakefield, R. Green, Esq. of Leventhorp House, near Leeds, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the West Riding of York.

On Sunday morning suddenly, at three o'clock, Mr. Cullum, cheesemonger, of Clare-market. He was in perfect health and enjoying the company of a few friends at a late hour on Saturday night. Mr. Cullum, from a very humble beginning, amassed a very large fortune, acquired by a long course of industrious and successful dealing.

Printed and published by JOHN HUNT, at the EXAMINER Office, 15, Beaufort Buildings, Strand.—Price 7½d.